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INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY USSR (Krasnoyarskiy Kray)

REPORT

SUBJECT Industries in Norilsk

DATE DISTR.

6 JUL 1959

NO. PAGES

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SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE

Five reports on the industries of Norilsk /N 69-20, E 88-06/

Attachment 1: A two-page report on the BOF (Bolshaya Obogatitel'naya Fabrika), an ore-concentrating plant.

Attachment 2: A two-page report on a copper refinery.

Attachment 3: A one-page report on a heavy-water plant called "476 Stroyka."

Attachment 4: A two-page report on the history of the industrial development of Norilsk.

Attachment 5: A four-page report on the industrial installations, public buildings and other buildings in the Norilsk area, including a sketch of Norilsk.

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Five reports on the industries of Norilsk /N 69-20. E 88-067

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Five reports on the industries of Norilsk /N 69-20, E 88-06/

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COUNTRY U.S.S.R

REPORT

SUBJECT Industrial Installations in the
Norilsk Area

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SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

1. One of the principal industrial installations in Norilsk is the Bolshaya Obogatitel'naya Fabrika (BOF), a smelting and refining combine serving the extensive mining interests in the Norilsk area. In 1954, BOF consisted of about ten independent buildings of red brick construction, each about two stories and ten meters high. BOF is easily identified by its two large chimneys which reach a height of about 80 meters. The installation is in the proximity of the mountains north and east of Norilsk where large scale mining operations are conducted both underground and on the surface. The appearance of these mountains is tier-like with railroad tracks located on the various levels for purposes of transporting the ores to large nearby funnels which in turn feed conduits through which the ores are then piped to the first-stage refinery. Following the initial processing at BOF, the various ores are then transported by a pipeline two meters in diameter to special refining plants for copper, nickel, cobalt, gold, platinum and lesser metals. Some of these plants are located as far as three kilometers from the BOF refinery.
2. The BOF factory is actually a lend-lease installation received [redacted] 25X1 during the War. It consists of three separate parts: BOF #1, the original refinery, and BOF #2 and #3 which are copies after the original (BOF #1) model. BOF #2 and #3 were constructed during the 1946-48 period, the new construction being almost the exact duplicate of the first installation. Electric power for BOF is obtained from the central power station in Norilsk which has a capacity of 150,000 kilowatts. 25X1
3. The predecessor refinery at Norilsk before the construction of BOF was the Malaya Obogatitel'naya Fabrika (MOF). It was a fairly rudimentary installation with a much smaller refining capacity and powered from a nearby electric power station with a capacity of 14,000 kilowatts.

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INFORMATION REPORT

INFORMATION REPORT

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S-E-C-R-E-T

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4. In 1954, BOF employed 3000 workers during a 24-hour period. The initial refining process was continuous because the factory supplied raw material to several other metal refining installations. The workers at BOF were mostly rehabilitated ex-prisoners. In the principal installation no category I (those condemned for political crimes on the basis of Article 58 of the Soviet Penal Code) prisoners were permitted to work. This became a fast rule after 1946. Category I political prisoners worked only in road gangs, heavy construction, loading, and other manual labor jobs where physical exertion was involved and where the risks in terms of the security of the industrial installation was relatively small. The workers at the main BOF installation were either persons of Russian or foreign origin who had already served their prison terms and had decided to settle in Norilsk. At BOF, for example, there was a Rumanian engineer named Vitkovski who had once worked for the Resita works in the Rumanian Banat. Owing to his skills in the metallurgical field, Vitkovski became general manager of the BOF plant. He was of Bessarabian origin and did not want to be repatriated. Workers at the BOF installation received the so-called "polar salary" which amounted to about three times as much as the regular worker's wage in places like Moscow.
 5. From the management standpoint, BOF and its related works constituted part of the "Norilski Kombinat" which until 1950 was under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Internal Affairs (M.V.D.). Because the M.V.D. provided most of the slave labor used at the BOF installation, its jurisdiction over the area was primary. In 1950-51, a great change took place in this respect in that control of BOF was handed over to the "Tvetnaya Metalurgiya" Ministry, then a separate ministry but now probably a part of the Ministry of Heavy Industry. This administrative change considerably improved the lot of slave laborers as they then began receiving better food and also were paid for their labors. Prior to 1951 slave laborers at BOF only received ruble credits in the form of chits (40 rubles per month) with which they could make purchases at the Norilsk canteens. After 1951, the average worker received up to 1200 rubles per month from which he almost immediately paid out about 900 for various charges, leaving him a net pay of about 300 rubles per month.
 6. BOF is actually located in the original town of Norilsk which largely consists of timber houses several hundred in number. In late 1954, the three main parts of the BOF installation were already constructed and the second two parts (Vtaraya Ochered and Tretyi Ochered) were waiting only for new machinery and equipment to arrive.

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INFORMATION REPORT

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1. In 1954 the Mednizavod factory was an important copper refinery in Norilsk. This factory was located about 500 meters from the Norilsk cemetery in a southeasterly direction. The installation also marked the beginning of Norilsk city; it was at the 'terminus' (southerly) of Prospekt Stalin, about 500 meters distant in an easterly direction.
2. The Mednizavod factory refined copper from ores mined in the Norilsk area, which in turn sent it off in ingots to various parts of Russia. The factory could easily be recognized by its two tall chimneys which were about 150 meters high. These were the highest constructions in Norilsk and the tops of the chimneys were equipped with aircraft warning lights (one of the lights was steady, the other alternated on and off). These chimneys also served as wind-direction and wind-velocity indicators for Norilsk. Smoke almost always emanated from the chimneys.
3. Prisoner Camp #4 built this establishment. In 1954 the slave labor there came from Camp #17, mostly former Russian aristocracy, thieves, killers, and other criminals. In its construction stages Mednizavod had an unusual priority. In the early stages, the chief of supply for the whole area of Norilsk was detached for the supply task of Mednizavod. He worked on the project from 1949 to 1952 when it was considered "pervi ocherid" (first priority) as a project. More labor and more fine material was devoted to this project than to any other in Norilsk. The reasons for this are not known. Mednizavod consisted of three large central buildings and several (about 20) smaller ones. The whole building area covered about four square kilometers.
4. At night one could observe large fires in the area, like that of burning garbage. The odor from these fires was pungent and very irritating to the nostrils (possibly hydrogen sulfide), which made it necessary to close all windows and doors of the camp, especially if the wind was blowing in the wrong direction.
5. Mednizavod employed about 1700 workers on a three-shift (24 hours) basis. The whole installation was nearly self-sufficient, having its own construction and repair sections, housing, transportation, supply, etc. There were buses to transport the workers to and from work. The highways leading to the installation were of concrete and very wide. It was also served by several wide-gauge

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INFORMATION REPORT

25X1

S-E-C-R-E-T

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railroad lines. Mednizavod was the only installation carrying higher-type PX items like cigarets, cloth, food, etc. It was in all respects an important installation with privileged people working in it.

25X1

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SUBJECT "476 Stroyka" Factory in Norilsk

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SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

1. The "476 Stroyka" factory is in the center of the old timber town of Norilsk. It is identifiable by its two peculiar chimneys about 15 meters high. No slave labor was permitted to work at this installation. All workers were politically verified and were brought from Greater Russia. The invoices used at the factory showed that the materials used there were not paid for by the "Norilski Kombinat", as in the other factories in the area, but from a special office in Moscow. The workers who delivered supplies to the factory only delivered them to the gate at which point the trucks were taken over by the trusted factory workers and driven to the factory itself. Camp #3 supplied construction material (timber, cement, bricks, etc.) to the factory. The smokestacks emitted little smoke and this very infrequently. It was of no special color. The rumor was that heavy water was produced at this factory. There were no railroad links with this factory; transport was effected only by truck. The installation was headed by a military man of the rank of general.
2. The installation was completely walled in and guarded by M.C.B. troops with red shoulder boards. It was not illuminated at night and was considered the most important installation in Norilsk. It is difficult to explain why the installation was located almost in the center of town. The rumor was that because it was located so close to the populated area, its security was in fact better because no one would believe that a sensitive installation could be so located.

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SUBJECT Industrial Development of the Norilsk Area

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1. The development of Norilsk into an industrial area of importance did not actually begin until 1934 in spite of the fact that the town was well known before World War I when the famous brothers Norozov first began their exploitation of the mining resources in this region. The year 1934 marked the beginning of a large influx to Norilsk of slave labor, mostly political prisoners and criminals with long sentences. The original expansion plans for the town were modified a number of times but in general, it was divided into sections (quarters), each of which was numbered. The first large-scale construction began well south of the original timber town of Norilsk with the building of section #00. The first buildings were three large camps with several groups of one-story buildings where the prisoner-workers were housed. Later several apartment houses and buildings intended for the camp administration were added. This whole area was then enclosed with barbed wire fences with appropriate installations for guarding the premises. Other construction north, east and west of Norilsk followed commencing with the building of several industrial installations which produced construction materials such as sand, gravel, brick and cement. At the same time a small electric power station (capacity 14,000 KW), driven by coal mined in the nearby areas, was built. Soon thereafter, factories #5 and 10, intended for the refining of nickel, cobalt, platinum and copper, were constructed.

2. Except for coal, most of which was used locally for power and heating purposes, the mineral production of Norilsk (principally nickel, cobalt, platinum, copper, petroleum and uranium) was transported to continental Russia either by water or rail. During the three months when the Yenisei River was free of ice, the minerals were sent to Dudinka by rail where they were reloaded on barges or ocean-going vessels for transshipment to other parts of the Soviet Union. Until 1951 there was a double-track narrow-gauge railroad between Norilsk and Dudinka on which the traffic was fairly heavy. After 1951 conversion of this line to a standard (wide-gauge) track began along the 120 kilometer stretch. By 1955 this conversion to wide gauge was in large part completed by the slave labor which occupied several small camps (200-300 prisoners each) all along the Norilsk-Dudinka stretch. The only large construction task that remained in order to complete the railroad link between Norilsk and Moscow (via Tomsk) was the railroad tunnel under the Yenisei River. At Dudinka the ores from

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INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

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- 2 -

Korilsk were sometimes loaded on planes and flown to interior Russia by regular air transports or by training craft known as "aviosania".

3. Intensive development of Korilsk began after World War II and it was due to several factors:

a. Lend-lease material received [] permitted the construction of the large nickel and copper refineries of NOK and Mednizavod; an electrical power plant with a capacity of 150,000 kilowatts (equipped with three generators, two of them [] war booty); and a large repair works for locomotives, railroad cars and heavy machinery and equipment; 25X1

b. A large influx of cheap labor, mostly political prisoners, which at one time numbered as many as 350,000;

c. Increase of the population of Korilsk by virtue of the fact that the prisoners who obtained their freedom were not permitted to leave the area, being obliged to settle in the city;

d. Inclusion of Korilsk in the area of Siberia where the "Zapolaria" (polar salaries), that is, wages twice or three times the usual amount, were paid. On the basis of the "Zapolaria", an average prisoner guard paid 500 rubles for his work in Moscow would receive 1500 rubles in Korilsk. The premiums were even higher for skilled workers.

4. From the end of the War the population of Korilsk increased at a rapid rate. In 1955 the population of the city was about 650,000 not counting the prisoners.

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Attachment 3

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25X1

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Following is a short description of the principal industrial installations, public buildings and miscellaneous other construction located in Norilsk (U.S.S.R.). The paragraph numbers are keyed to the attached sketch.

1. Bolshaya Obogatitel'naya Fabrika (BOF), one of the three largest industrial installations in Norilsk. Its principal activity was the smelting and refining of ores (copper, nickel, cobalt, gold, etc.).
2. Mekhanicheskii Zavod, a repair workshop and spare parts factory, which repaired and overhauled heavy equipment such as locomotives, railroad cars, conveying equipment, mining apparatus, etc. This installation and its various adjoining branches covered approximately 40,000 square meters of space. It employed 10,000 - 12,000 workers.
3. An electrical workshop which performed all manner of electrical repairs such as overhauling motors, rewinding armatures, replacing used parts, etc.
4. Camp #2 (Ispravitel'nyi Trudovoi Lager), the principal housing area for the skilled workers who were employed at BOF. Its occupants were mostly Russians who were confined to Norilsk for relatively short periods for minor infractions of Soviet law. The camp consisted of six areas of barracks with four sections each and covered an area of two square kilometers. It was a self-sufficient housing installation capable of accommodating up to 3000 prisoners. The inmates were referred to as the "boskonvoyani" because they were free to go to and from their place of work without an escort. However, if found off limits, they immediately lost their "boskonvoyani" status and were transferred to new jobs and barracks where they were under constant guard.
5. A small two-story building of timber construction which served as the Norilsk jail. It had two sections, one for political (Article 58) prisoners, the other for offenders against civil law. In this building, there was also a special section for alcoholics and for temporary confinement of certain types of prisoners on holidays such as 1 May and 7 November when disturbances among prisoners were always believed possible. The jail had a prisoner

25X1

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INFORMATION REPORT

INFORMATION REPORT

25X1

S-E-C-R-E-T

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25X1

capacity of about 300 - 400.

- 6-16. Buildings of relatively recent (1950) construction. They were 5-6 stories high and contained apartments of two to three bedrooms intended for higher ranking free workers in the Norilsk area. In 1954, these apartments were already overcrowded with as many as three families living in each apartment. The apartments were badly constructed and showed (in 1954) considerable signs of deterioration. The poor construction was due largely to the exaggerated work norms by which they were built. The upper floors of these buildings contained retail stores where the workers purchased food, clothing, drugs and assorted items of household equipment. None of the stores displayed any of their goods, prices were high and because there was no rationing, speculation was well-developed. Most of the stores were identified by number with the exception of UNIVERNAC (department store) and EAST O OI (grocery store) whose main shops were located in Lenin Square. Displays of goods were rare owing to the high incidence of theft.
17. This building, still under construction in 1954, was to be a nine-story government administration center (Norilsk Kombinat). It was started in 1952 but encountered difficulties with the foundation owing to alternate water seepage and freezing.
18. The TECHNIKUM mining school, a middle-level institution which trained skilled workers below the level of engineers. It was completed in 1954 and has a capacity for several hundred students. In 1954 approximately 100 men and women, all natives of Norilsk, were enrolled at the school. TECHNIKUM had no connection with the middle-grade schools in Norilsk. To be eligible for enrollment, however, one had to show proof of completion of middle-grade studies. TECHNIKUM specialized in metallurgical and mining studies.
19. This building was the new police headquarters and was intended to replace the jail located in the old timber town (see #5 above). Completed in 1954, the building had five stories plus two underground floors. It was of red brick construction. The floors below the ground were the confinement cells, all of which were equipped with thick walls, special doors, barred windows and other types of prisoner separations. Although the bulk of the construction of this prison was done by the inmates of Norilsk, its completion was assigned to trusted Russians. The dimensions of the building were roughly 60 by 20 meters. Adjoining the prison was a large restaurant named "Rodveshi" which served only free civilian workers.
20. The Norilsk post office, a building about 60 by 15 meters, was located some 40 meters southwest of the prison (see #17 above). The post office was in full use in 1954.
- 21-25. This group of buildings consisted of 3 and 4-story apartments occupied by free workers in Norilsk.
- 26-28. Camp #4 of the Lorry Lager. The camp was originally constructed for the free workers in Norilsk. The buildings are made of red brick and constitute three groups each two stories high. In 1954 they housed about 4000 prisoners, all men. There were no walls on the inside, the living spaces being only partitioned to provide a modicum of privacy. Adjoining the buildings were the sanitary facilities, recreation fields and movie theatres. The whole area was surrounded by a barbed-wire fence. The distance from this camp to the principal working areas was about 3 kilometers.
29. This building was the Free Workers' Club (club Lorryaki). It was still in the construction stage in 1954 and the plans called for a large theatre hall, club and recreation rooms.
30. This large treeless area was known as Forest Park. It was terraced so as to take advantage of the rolling contour of the terrain. The park could be used only by the free population of Norilsk.

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Attachment 3

S-E-C-R-E-T

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31. Norilsk stadium. It was still being built in 1954 and had an intended capacity of 40,000 persons.
32. Schools (lower and middle grades).
- 33-35. These were now apartments in the process of construction. Each was five to six stories high and intended for occupation by high ranking free workers in Norilsk.
36. Intended for occupation by a Pioneer youth group, this building was threatened with collapse in 1954. It was built during freezing weather when ice became mixed with the mortar. The foundation gave way during a 1954 heat wave. The Russian engineer in charge of this construction disappeared from Norilsk camp soon after this incident.
37. Norilsk railway station. The building was two stories high and located next to a reinforced concrete railway platform having 16 or more tracks. It was painted white and blue. The station was for passenger traffic only.
38. The Mednizavod refinery. It processed copper ore into ingots which then were sent to various parts of Russia for further conversion into finished goods. The factory was easily recognized by its two tall chimneys (about 150 meters high) which were the highest constructions in Norilsk. On both chimneys were mounted aircraft warning lights.
39. Norilsk cemetery with most graves marked with stars or other non-Christian symbols.
40. Worker camp #17 occupied mainly by Russian prisoners.
41. Administration building for Ministry of Transport.
42. The "476 Stroyka" factory. It was the most secret of the Norilsk installations.
43. Malaya Obogatitel'naya Fabrika (MOF). A small and fairly rudimentary smelting and refining plant which was in use prior to the building of MOF (see #1 above).
44. Electric power station of 150,000 KW capacity. It supplies electric power for the entire Norilsk area.
45. Low building materials (cement) and construction goods factory.
46. Old hospital.
47. Old construction materials factory.
48. "San Gorodok" hospital.

S-E-C-R-E-T

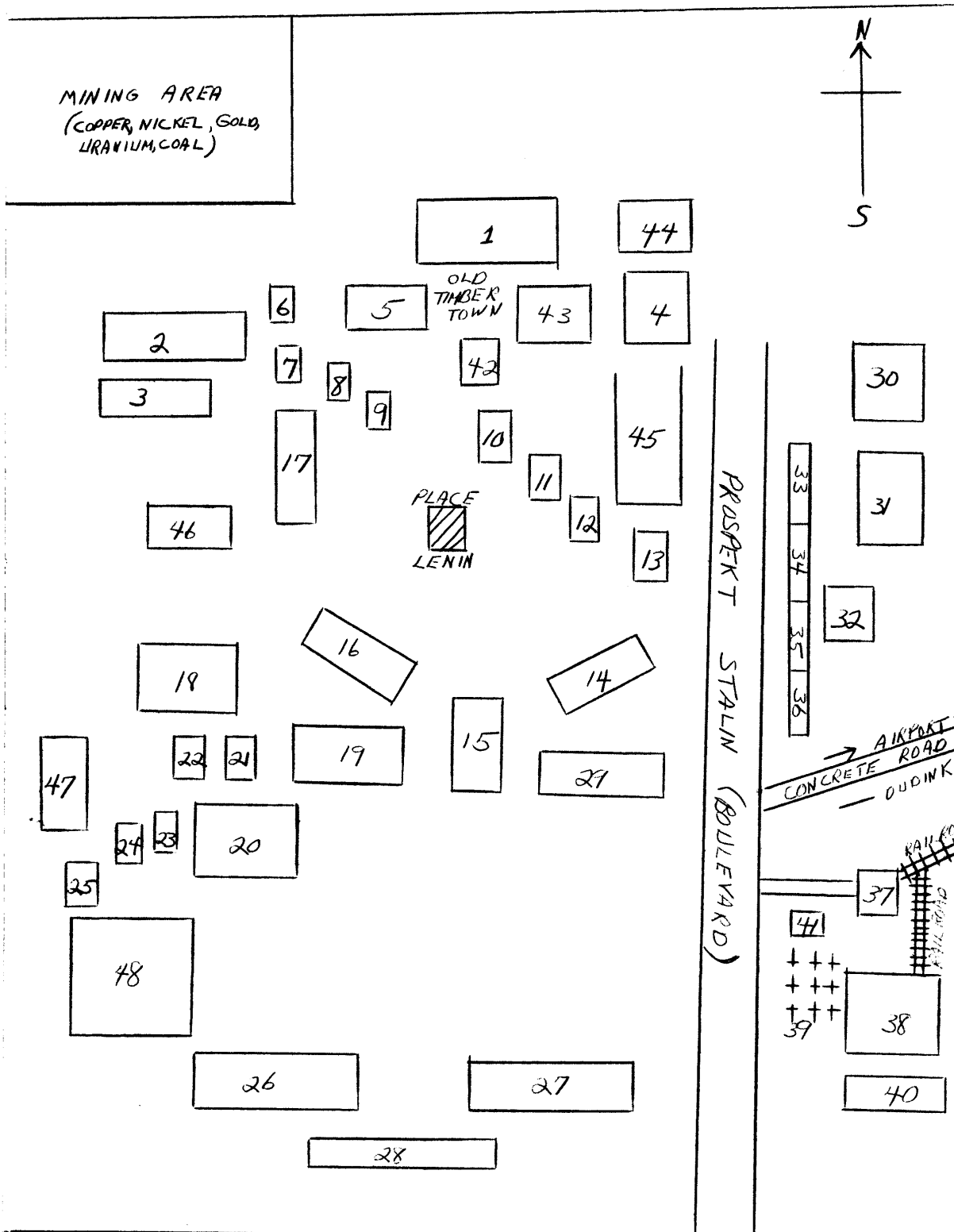
25X1

Attachment 3

S-E-C-R-E-T

Industrial installations, public buildings, miscellaneous construction in the Norilsk area. The sketch has been prepared from memory and is not according to scale.

25X1



S-E-C-R-E-T

25X1